GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4510
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016
Autistic Children
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken up the issue of grant of admission to autistic children in Government schools with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to extend necessary medical welfare measures to autistic children of the country?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) to (c): The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalization of elementary education for all children from 6-14 years of age, including children with special needs (CWSN). Further Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage, a sub component of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), aims to enable all students with disabilities, to pursue further four years of secondary schooling (classes IX to XII) after completing eight years of elementary schooling.

Under National Health Mission, the Government of India is implementing Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) for screening of all the children from 0-18 years of age including school children for 4 D"s i.e. defects, Deficiencies, Diseases, and Development delays including disability. Autism Spectrum Disorder is one of the health conditions of Developmental Delays including disability covered under Rashtriya Bal Swasthaya Karyakram (RBSK).

Under Rashtriya Bal Swasthaya Karyakram, the children in the age group of birth till 6 years are screened twice a year at anganwadi centres and children of 6 years to 18 years enrolled in Government and Government aided schools are screened once a year by dedicated Mobile Block Health Teams.

Children diagnosed with identified health conditions receive follow-up care including early intervention services at the district level, including surgeries at tertiary level, free of cost under National Health Mission. Under the programme, District Early Intervention Centres (DEICs) are being made operational in all districts of the country. In the District Early Intervention Center, provision has been made for Physiotherapist / Occupational therapist and Paediatric Audiologist & Speech pathologist / Early Interventionist with Paediatric Audiology & Speech pathology along with other professionals for Interdisciplinary approach in management of children at DEIC.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan all children with special needs including children with Autism are medically assessed by a team of doctors to ascertain their extent of disability and their current level of functioning. Children with special needs are also provided aids and appliances, therapy, transport, escort and surgery as per need. Under Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage Rs 3000/- per annum per student is provided to States/UTs, as per applicable funding pattern between States and Centre, for student oriented components -medical assessment, aids and appliances, access to learning material, transport facilities, books, uniforms, assistive devices, stipend to girls students.

The Central Government has set up the National Trust for welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. The Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme under National Trust, provides affordable health insurance to persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. The enrolled beneficiary gets a health insurance cover of Rs 1.0 lakh on payment of a nominal fee.